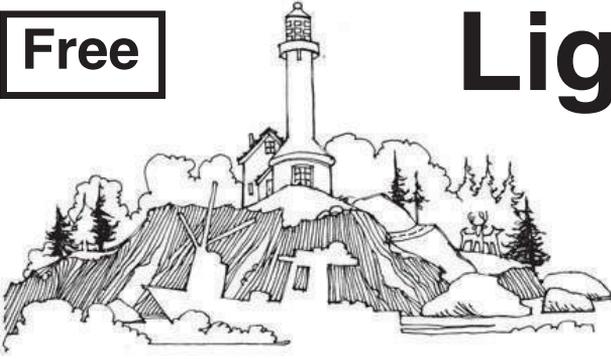


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Lighthouse Peddler

(707) 882-3126 Issue #89 March 2009

www.lighthousepeddler.net

A Little Newspaper by the Edge of the Sea

Meet Point Arena's New Mayor

On January 27 following the seating of the new Point Arena City Council the members elevated Vice-Mayor, Lauren Sinnott, to the position of Mayor. Her election comes after having served eight years as a member of the council. After falling just short of being elected in the 2000 council election she was appointed to fill a seat abandoned by another council member. She served the remainder of that term and was elected to a 4-year term in the 2002 election in an uncontested race. In 2004 she was chosen to the post of Vice-Mayor and ran for the council again in 2006, winning another 4-year term against write-in candidates.

Lauren was born in Madison, Wisconsin and was raised in a near-by town before attending Rice University in Houston, Texas earning three degrees including a Master's

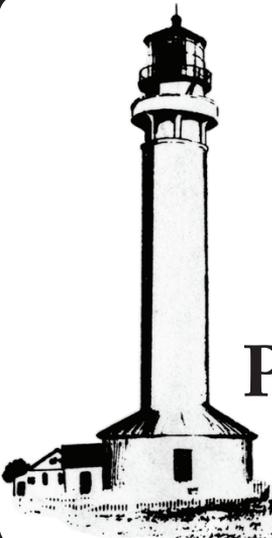
in Art History. She is well known in the area as an accomplished and unique artist who goes by the business name Art-Goddess. The name was originally suggested somewhat humorously as a vanity alias for the Internet, but the name has become synonymous with Point Arena's new chief executive.



Mayor Lauren Sinnott

While still living in Texas a friend who was familiar with Annapolis suggested that Lauren needed to move to Northern California. She, a companion, and her two sons, Adrian and Ian, loaded into a bus and headed west. After a detour up Hwy. 101 and into Oregon, they returned to the California coast and made their way to Point Arena in the bus. They found the town to be very welcoming and just to their liking, so they

continued on page 14



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Each winter we look forward to things slowing down and having time to get to all those things we are too busy to do in the summer. Things we call "good winter projects". The trouble is winter seems to fly by as fast as summer does, leaving most of those projects for next winter.

This edition will see the passing of the vernal equinox and the lengthening of the daylight to surpass the nighttime.

There are a few things that you should put on your list for the upcoming month and not forget. For us, chief among them is the Hazmobile coming to the south coast. This time around they will be at the Sea Ranch Fire House. Look across at page 3 for the listing of their days there; they are precious few and we hate it when we hear about it a few days late and must store our nastys for another couple months. Of course, the Ukiah depot is open daily if you are heading that way.

Another thing you might do is to visit the re-opened Lighthouse. We got a quick tour and were completely knocked out by the view from the top. No question it is the number one viewpoint on the coast. The lens has been taken down and put in the Fog Signal Building so the top of the Lighthouse is a clear space with an incomparable 360 deg. View. Get there before the tourist hordes.

Patrick Cordrey of the Oz Farm has a piece on page 6 about local agriculture. We keep bringing this subject forward because we are excited by all the possibilities and necessities for change that we are facing in the near and not-so-near future. One of those big changes which must take place is the end of our reliance on oil not just for transportation and energy, but to produce our food. We have to move away from the corporate dominance of the food supply, not because we hate corporations, but because it is not sustainable. That means doing like humans have always done before us. For the most part food should be grown by or near the people who consume it.



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*Deadline for submissions is
the twentieth of each month*

Lighthouse Peddler

Issue#89 March 2009

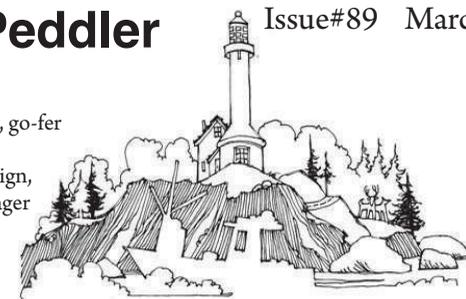
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Madame Butterfly Live at the Arena Theater

On Saturday March 7 at 10:00 a.m. the Arena Theater will present a live transmission of the New York Metropolitan Opera Company's production of *Madama Butterfly*. The opera by Giacomo Puccini is a staple of the standard operatic repertoire by companies around the world and is the most-performed opera in the United States. This is the eighth in the series of presentations at the Theater of the Met.

Though this is one of the most famous operas of all time, it didn't start out that way. Puccini first presented his opera in February 1904 in two-acts and it was poorly received largely due to a late completion and inadequate rehearsal time. He rewrote the opera and split the second act into two acts. In May of 1904 the new version was presented in Brescia and was a huge success. Nevertheless, Puccini continued to revise the opera with a third version presented at the Met

in New York in 1906. His fourth version made several changes in the orchestral and vocal scores and was presented in Paris in 1907. Later that year he revised it once again and this fifth version is now known as the "standard version" and is the one most often performed, though the original is still often performed in Italy.

The story is set in Nagasaki, Japan in 1904. Pinkerton, a young U.S. Naval officer has arranged for a home and bride in

Japan. He is infatuated by the beautiful and innocent Butterfly. He wants her, but has no intention of staying with her. He looks forward to the day when he returns to America to take "a real American bride". He is warned that Butterfly is truly devoted to him. She renounces her religion and culture and is ostracized for it. Pinkerton soon leaves Japan for America, but not before unknowingly impregnating Butterfly. She waits three years for his return, but when he does he brings his new American bride with him. His new bride, Kate, agrees to care for the child who would

otherwise be an outcast in Japan. Tragedy follows when Butterfly ends her life rather than live without her child and the man for whom she gave all.

Puccini based his opera in part on the short story "Madame Butterfly" (1898) by John Luther Long and the novel *Madame Chrysanthème* (1887) by Pierre Loti. According to American scholar Arthur Groos, the opera was based on events that actually occurred in Nagasaki in the

early 1890s.

Japan's best-known opera singer, Tamaki Miura, won international fame for her performances as Cio-Cio San (*Madama Butterfly*) and her statue, together with that of Puccini, can be found in Nagasaki's Glover Garden.

This production stars Cristina Gallardo-Domas in the title role and Marcello Giodani stars as Pinkerton. Patrick Summers conducts.



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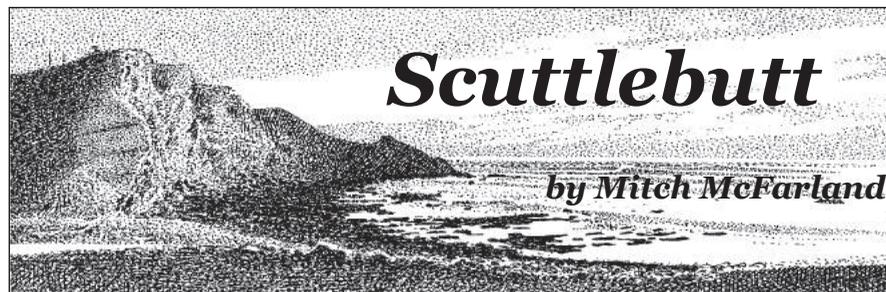
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We are, of course, pleased that rain has returned, but unless it really pours for a few more months, we are still facing a drought in California. Conservation is on the lips of every water manager and stories about the need for conservation is in every newspaper.

I'm all in favor of conservation, so I wondered what the State government is doing to encourage it. I thought I would have a look at my water bills to examine the rate structure and see what encouragement there was for me to conserve.

What I discovered was that there is virtually no encouragement at all.

I took a bill from each of the four seasons and averaged them and found that Madeline and I use about 423 cubic feet (3150 gallons) of water per month. Our average bill is \$74.72. I don't know if that is high or low on a statewide average, but that is not my concern here. What bothers me is the rate structure. This isn't a column about my water supplier. They don't make the rules, they just go by what the PUC allows.

The great percentage of my bill is a fixed amount. The service charge is fixed along with three other charges for various things that are also fixed. My actual water use only accounts for \$24.94 of my bill. The rest I pay even if I am in Europe the whole month.

So what about conservation? I'm pretty careful about water use so it would be a real challenge to cut my use in half, but if I did, my bill would only go down \$13. Not much incentive to save. If I didn't give a damn and doubled my water use, my bill would only go up \$24. The more water I use, the cheaper it gets by the gallon. What is that all about?

I don't begrudge the water company making a reasonable profit and that, it seems, is all the PUC really cares about: making sure that utilities are making a reasonable profit (and no more). It seems that they don't give a damn about conservation, at least when devising a rate structure. I'm afraid this is yet another example of how state agencies lose track of the public interest.

I don't know how water rates get set for agri-business, but something tells me that there is little incentive for them to stop growing cotton in the desert.

My daughter, Amy, is about to graduate from college this summer. When she was three years old I started a college savings fund for her. It wasn't a bank savings account, but a money market account. I thought you could do better than a bank as I assumed that banks will give the lowest possible return on your money—safe, but not too lucrative.

The account was with Dreyfus Funds. It was put in a so-called socially conscious investment account that theoretically didn't give money to bad people; that is, those who exploit employees and the environment to get rich. Well, I don't know how socially conscious it really was because it included pharmaceutical companies, energy producers, and the like, but I didn't really want to get into investigating everywhere her money went.

The day I started the account the share price was \$6.83. Over time I added some money and grandparents did and cash presents were all put in the account.

Since Amy is about the cash in the last of the stock, I thought I would look at its performance over the 19 years. I charted it's rising and falling and noticed some interesting trends. In '89 when we started, the market was down. On September 5, 1989 the Dow Jones was at 2745. This was just at the end of Bush 1. Bill Clinton came in and the market rose steadily until it hit its peak of 11,316 one month before the election that was given to George Bush 2. The share price at that time was \$14.82. That share price has dropped ever since except for a curious spike in the fall of 2007 when the price went back up to \$10.21 and the stock market hit near an all-time high of 13,924.

Today the share price stands at \$6.61; 22 cents less than 19 years ago. Meanwhile, Amy has been paying \$35 service fee on the account meaning that another \$665 was lost to broker fees.

Over time the family and friends put in a total of \$11,800. Using the dates and amount of deposits and an Internet savings calculator, I worked out that if we would have put the money in the bank at 2.2 %, it would be worth \$15,789 today.

Fortunately for her and just out of dumb luck I took some money out to make private loans when the market was high so she didn't actually lose any money, but if



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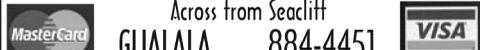
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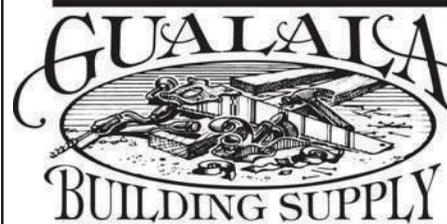
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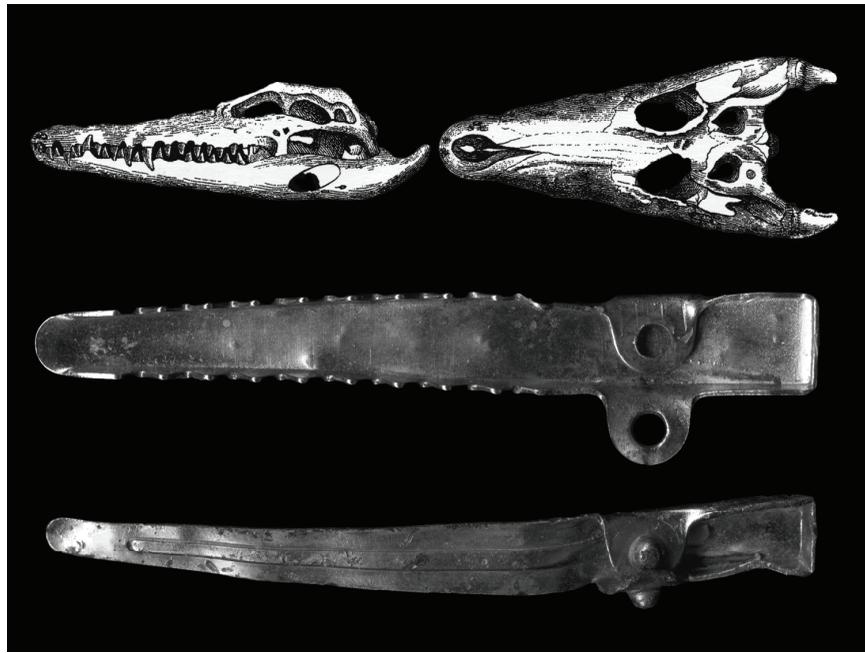
Berkeley City College Printmakers

As digital technology becomes more and more sophisticated some artists are finding new ways to apply existing concepts and techniques to the new tools available to the digital artist. Large format printers make possible the production of big images formerly unavailable. Twenty of these artists of varied backgrounds will be showing at the Gualala Arts Center opening March 14 at 5:00 p.m. until April 6. Their show, entitled "Thinking Big: Berkeley City College

of new spaces derived from the lighting and modeling of 3D rendering programs.

Other artists use high-resolution photography to make "hyper-realistic" imagery of an illusionary nature, making prints that are beyond what is real because they have been so precisely edited.

Still other printmakers are exploring figurative work - adapting recognizable subject matter but 'compositing' it as if in digital collages: combining



Aligator Clips by PG Meier

Printmakers," The exhibit demonstrates the newest efforts in producing digital imagery at a large scale.

The twenty artists in this group are evolving a culture and style of digital printmaking that works in four overlapping aesthetic areas: abstraction, hyper-realism, figurative art and neo-surrealism.

Several artists are branching out into new forms of digital abstraction using input sources such as layered vector designs (algorithm-based), distorted and overlapped photography, inclusion of scanned objects and patterns, and the development

and mixing pictorial elements from drawings, paintings and appropriated sources (web, text, fonts, famous images) and engendering new figures in new environments.

The final group of artists is working in a "neo-surrealistic" style: borrowing a variety of inputs to create worlds that are dreamy, revelatory and expressive of imagination and levels of underlying consciousness. Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of this group is that most members work across these four interrelated styles.

continued on page 14



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MY TURN

by Patrick Cordrey



As we edge toward the end of the first decade of the 21st century, a new wave of uncertainty arises amidst the promise of hope with the election of the first minority president.

With an economic recession quickly becoming a looming depression, many of us are questioning the functionality and stability of a technologically dependent and energy intensive global agriculture. As we look at the choices necessary to bring about a turn toward a sustainable model we may be overcome by multitudes of elusive & illogical "solutions." By reclaiming a connection to the bioregion and supporting strong agrarian community values we can begin to establish a sustainable local food system.

The run of government subsidized corporate homogenization that has led to the demise of small-scale family-run businesses began in the mid-1940's. Agriculture which had been regionally-based and diversified before WWII was infused with surplus chemicals and technologies that promised a break from the laborious tedium of farm life with the "Green Revolution." This settled in well in the 1950's as the U.S. populace made the shift toward a suburban lifestyle. Things got easier and cheaper due to the industrialization of agricultural production. This commodity crop focused agribusiness became driven by progress and profits, overlooking the health of the soil, plants and animals raised, and the workforce engaged in producing cheap available food. With free-trade agreements, military might, and a newly acquired superpower status our agriculture went global. Entering the 1980's, corporate control of the agriculture sector reached a new level of domination—consolidation of family farms left America's agrarians down and out—and then things got big. Genetic manipulation and biotechnology entered the arena to "feed the starving planet." Soon, most of the genetic integrity of crops had been tainted, twisted and patented. Today, there are a precariously limited number of pure strains of food plants, most seeds are owned by a handful of corporations, and the industrial food system has effectively extinguished the biodiversity once

prized by farmers. This ailing agribusiness superstructure is tenuous at best, and has wrested the food from the hands of the people.

A response to the impacts of these deeply felt economic strains is to seek a more direct, mutually beneficial relationship to the region one inhabits. Becoming familiar with the flow of our basic needs— food & medicine, water, and shelter – reestablishes a vital dialogue.

As folks here on the North Coast know, we share a special and resource-rich environment. The air is fresh and clean. Most people know where their water comes from (and goes). Some people have abundant gardens and homesteads. A few savvy ones know the ocean and forests well enough to forage for the most rare of delicacies.

Yet if we look at the inputs required to keep our small locale on the up and up it's obvious that we are disconnected from the origins. The majority of the food we eat is trucked in from sources around the globe. Reflecting on the historical accounts of the south coast township (Elk to Gualala) over a century ago, I found descriptions of diverse and productive agriculture. Two pound onions, four pound potatoes, thirty five pound cabbages and one hundred pound beets were reported from the local soils along the bench lands and river bottoms of the south coast's exceptionally fertile soils. A dozen or more dairies offered exports of rich cream and butter from the verdant pastures. Today we are fortunate to have an organic neighborhood dairy representing multi generational family farming. A half dozen farmers grow and offer fresh produce through the season at local farmer markets. But by and large, our region is deficient in local production. How much of the food available in our schools was grown on the coast here? How much intensive energy is expended to industrially produce, package, and deliver goods from an average of 1400 miles away? Do we know the people who tended and harvested our food?

Thinking about how we can gain control and create a thriving network of localized community- based businesses and farms to feed, shelter and clothe ourselves poses many challenges. One of the more direct and mutually beneficial relationships that can be created is the CSA (Community

continued on page 14



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South Coast Artists to Show in Japan

Ling-Yen Jones, Miriam Owen, and Mike Henderson have been chosen by the Mendocino Sister City Association to show their work in Japan this summer.

A Call to Artists went out across the county to find artists to represent Mendocino at two exhibitions. The Miasa-Omachi Mendocino Sister City Exhibition will be June 19 to July 15, 2009 and the Matsumoto Museum Exhibition will be in September.

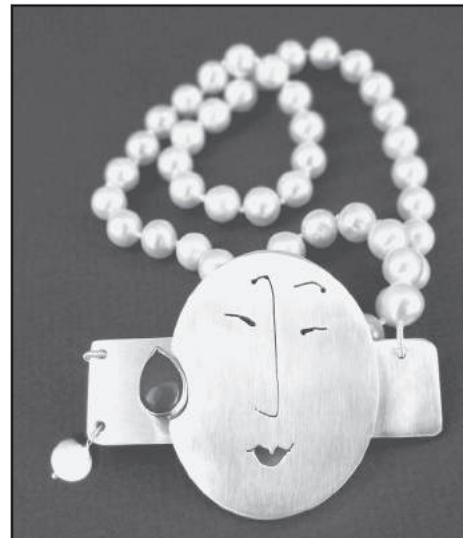
Twenty-eight artists were chosen to send their work abroad and of them ten finalists were picked to actually make the trip. Finalist Ling-Yen Jones, a maker of exquisite and unusual jewelry, was awarded the opportunity to accompany her work.

As a working artist Ling-Yen faces a daunting task of raising the funds necessary to make the trip.

Expenses for the



image by John Handel



Raffle prize: sterling silver clasp face necklace with white pearl and blue gem silica

trip must be borne by the artists. In order to help raise the funds Ling-Yen is raffling a sterling silver clasp face necklace with white pearl and blue gem silica. Raffle tickets are now available at Everything Under the Sun in Point Arena, Four-Eyed Frog Bookstore, Rumors, and Red Stella in Gualala and the Mendocino Jewelry Studio in Mendocino. The lucky winner will be chosen on May 25 at the Memorial Day gift show at 284 Main St Point Arena (the old CityArt building) at 1:00 p.m. Winner need not be present.

Tickets are \$2 a piece, 3 for \$5, 10 for \$7, or 15 for \$20. Any further questions contact Ling-Yen Jones 884-9153 or email lingyen@juno.com or website www.ling-yendesigns.com

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Coast Community Library

Book Review
by Terra Black

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

“There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife.”

The Graveyard Book begins at night with the slaying of a family at the hands of a gifted, knife-wielding assassin named Jack. But Jack goofs and lets one get away, an 18-month-old toddler who wanders away from his crib and toddles his way to an ancient graveyard where he is given sanctuary by surprisingly friendly, but very dead, individuals. The inhabitants of the graveyard, long since dead and forgotten, save the young child and bring him into their world, giving him “Freedom of the Graveyard” and raising him in a most unusual manner. And while the dead do not eat or leave the confines of their ghostly “homes”, the mysterious undead Silas agrees to be the child’s guardian and supply him with his earthly needs. Thus Nobody Owens is adopted into a lifestyle which will find him able to converse freely with ghosts

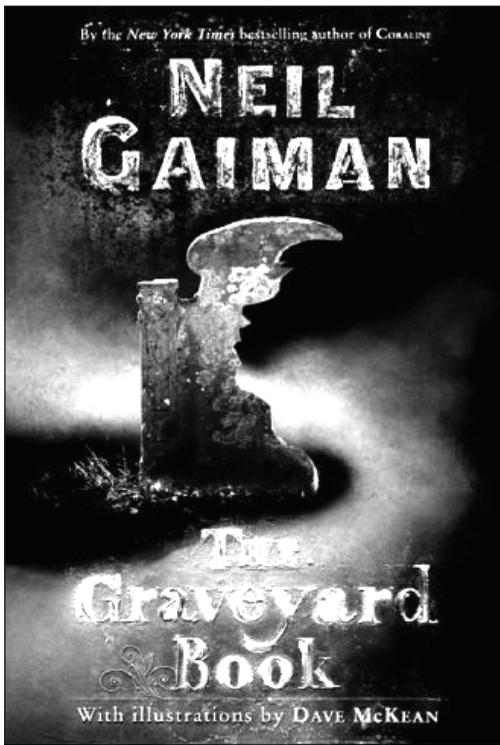
and learn many useful traits such as Fading and Dreamwalking.

This is deliciously creepy stuff. It’s not everyday one reads a sweet story of a little boy growing to maturity in a graveyard, having adventures with witches and ghouls and learning some of the magic tricks of the Dead. Gaiman says he was inspired by

Kipling’s *Jungle Book*. Instead of the orphaned boy being raised in a jungle by wild things, however, the child is raised in a cemetery by ghosts and things that go bump in the night.

Some might worry about the violence of the opening scene, but rest assured that it takes place off screen with zero gore. Darkness and grim plot devices are not new in children’s literature. L. Frank Baum, who gave us *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, was especially fond of decapitations, and no one can say that the Brothers Grimm shied away from blood or gore

in telling their “happily-ever-after” ditties. *The Graveyard Book* is mild by comparison to those classics, and is the worthy recipient of the 2008 Newberry Award for Children’s Literature. Come check out this delightful children’s fantasy at Coast Community Library in the Children’s room.



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The Adventurous Gardener DRY TIMES, PART TWO BY LORI HUBBART

Well, we've had some rain, but not enough to slake the thirst of our parched region. While copious rain in both March and April would help our gardens, it would not be enough to recharge most water supplies.

This new drought may not entail hot, dry weather – at least not for us. We may end up with surface dampness, but essentially dry conditions. That leaves us wondering, “What can we plant?” Many of the classic “drought-tolerant” plants hail from warmer climes with low humidity, so they would not thrive here.

Plants from Mediterranean climates, with cool, wet winters and dry summers, would be the obvious choices, as long as they don't need too much heat. Our region has not been considered part of California's Mediterranean climate zone, but that may be changing.

To find new and interesting plants for our landscapes, we must get familiar with the world's Mediterranean regions and their plants. An excellent primer is *Plant Life in the World's Mediterranean Climates: California, Chile, South Africa, Australia, and the Mediterranean Basin* by Peter R. Dallman. Conveniently, the countries with this climate type are listed in the title!

For ornamentals, look for plants that need little water, yet give a lot. Strawflowers, for example, are colorful and can bloom spring through fall. The one I planted last spring was listed as an annual, yet is still growing (and blooming). Flowers are bright yellow with rays tipped in burnt orange – probably ‘Sundaze Flame’. This, along with the larger, but excellent ‘Dargon Hill Monarch’ would be known botanically as *Bracteantha bracteata* (formerly *Helichrysum*).

A lower, spreading strawflower is ‘Mo's Gold’ with gray leaves and small golden daisies. The flowers have the disconcerting habit of closing on overcast days, but it would be a great plant for sunnier ridgetop gardens.

Taprooted perennials are another option, since their roots can find water deep down. California poppy and its relative, the Mexican tulip poppy, are examples. The tulip poppy is *Hunnemannia fumariifolia*, a refined-looking yet vigorous subshrub with yellow flowers.

The carrot family is known for its taprooted plants and Johnny's Selected

Seeds has a new carrot called ‘Black Knight’. After producing edible carrots it then bolts with umbels of purple flowers. Root crops make a lot of sense right now, so parsnip fans are in luck.

The mint/sage family includes some plants with taproots, like hyssop (*Agastache* species). Even the more northerly species seem reasonably drought-resistant. These usually have purple flowers in spikes, with the hybrid, ‘Blue Fortune’ typical of the group. The leaves are anise or licorice-scented.

Southwest *Agastache* species tend to have flowers in the pink-red-orange range and are more appreciative of heat and dry air. All these hyssops will attract bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies.

For shrubs, we can look for species with deep roots like the native blue blossoms (*Ceanothus* species), or exotic Camellias, which actually have deep, water-seeking roots. One wonders whether the lovely Camellia relatives, *Stewartia*, *Franklinia* and *Gordonia* have similar deep roots. If

continued on pg 15



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Preview

Whale and Jazz Festival Coming in April

Spring is just around the corner and that means the annual Whale and Jazz Festival is coming to the South Coast. The Festival will take place over three weekends. Activities begin on Thursday, April 2, with a photo lecture by award winning whale photographer Siegfried Matull. His spectacular whale photos from Hawaii and Alaska will guarantee plenty of whale sightings even if conditions inhibit viewing the whales passing by at sea.

The following night on Friday, April 3 St Orres Restaurant will present dinner and jazz featuring European Gypsy Jazz with guitarists Paul Gruen and Ned Ripple. Seatings are 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Call 884-3335 for reservations.

Saturday afternoon take a ride up to the Annapolis Winery for Wine and Jazz with Christie Winn & the Lowdowns. Call 886-5460 for details.

Festival Music Coordinator, Fred Adler, has promised a unique and magical musical evening when the main event takes place on Saturday April 4 at 7:30 p.m. Todd Sickafoose's Tiny Resistors bring an unusual combination of bass, violin, trumpet, glockenspiel, saxophone, guitar, and other instruments to Todd's original compositions which Fred calls, "the most original and riveting jazz that I have ever heard." Limited cabaret seating is available, but get your tickets early.

The following morning on Sunday, April 5 The Redwood Grill will be serving brunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to the sounds of keyboardist, Greg Hester. Reservations at 884-1639.

On Monday, April 6 the Arena Theater will be showing whale and jazz films to be announced.

The following weekend The Sea Ranch Lodge will host a sunset dinner and jazz with Susan Sutton, keyboard and Terry Simcik, guitar. Call 785-2371 for details.

Saturday afternoon, April 11 will be the Annual Chowder Challenge at the Arts Center in Gualala from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Barnaby's Hot Four is back by popular demand with their traditional New Orleans style jazz. Admission for the music only is free.

The same evening, Saturday, April 11 the Whale Watch Inn will host a gourmet buffet and wine at sunset overlooking the sea. Outstanding guitar and vocal duo, Mimi & Gabriel Pirard, and Ricky Aquino, percussion will provide original Parisian chansons with a jazz flavor. Call 884-3667 for information and reservations.

That same evening the Art Center will host Poetry and Jazz featuring Butoh theater, and haiku & other forms of Japanese poetry accompanied by traditional Japanese instruments. Refreshments and a no-host beer/wine bar will be available. The event begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday afternoon you can enjoy brunch with creative local jazz duo, Keith Abrams, acoustic bass guitar and Paul Mueller, tenor sax at the Blue Canoe in Anchor Bay from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

More whale and jazz films will be shown at the Arena Theater on Monday, April 13 TBA.

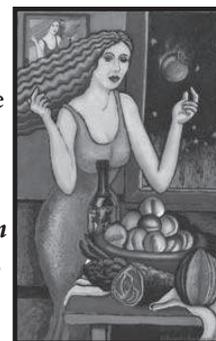
The third weekend features events in Point Arena. A restaurant event is being scheduled for somewhere in Point Arena, but details are not available at this time.

Whale and Jazz 2009 concludes Saturday evening April 18 with Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir. This globally acclaimed vocal/percussion ensemble authentically draws from the history of African/American Roots music. Field shouts, spirituals, blues, gospel, jazz and Afro-Caribbean rhythms are all performed with joyous and devoted integrity. See next month's issue for full details.

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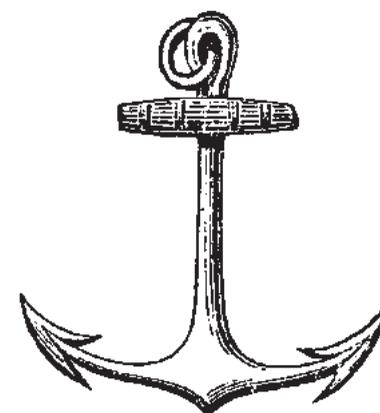
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My Way Forward by Charles Peterson

I can remember when the Census Bureau first reported that there were a million millionaires in the United States. Today, millionaires are a dime a dozen. In fact, the term working-class millionaire would no longer be an oxymoron. Anyone who owns property near the coast in Northern California can understand. I've always known that it would eventually become commonplace to speak in terms of trillions of dollars --one trillion is one million millions.

This year we have reached the point where many of us are chagrined, but not entirely displeased, by the thought of the federal government shoring up banks and residential mortgage holders to the tune of 2-3 trillion dollars. The recently passed \$787 billion stimulus package is understood to be a "down payment" on what needs to be done to keep the national economy from completely tanking.

But silver linings do abound. It is becoming abundantly clear that Barack Obama does understand that we are approaching the end of the oil and coal economy. It is a long way from over, but it is not impossible to see this horizon. A few months ago in this column I talked about predictions for oil prices in the near future. At that time there was no global financial crisis and oil was selling for \$140 per barrel. I talked about predictions of oil prices falling to as low as \$70 per barrel in the short term, followed by increases to as high as \$200 per barrel in the not too distant future. No one was guessing that a financial meltdown would hammer us so bad that oil would fall to less than \$40 per barrel simply because no one could afford to buy it or, even worse, oil wasn't needed because millions of us had no job to drive to or money to go shopping or for vacation, college, or anything else. We have succeeded in reducing our carbon footprint, but for a most painful and ironic reason. Between dwindling supplies and the reality of global climate change, it seems that all we really needed to begin moving in a new and better direction was exactly what has happened. I guess we should be thankful for the self-serving greed of which we were all victims. Thank you Wall Street. Thank you Bush Administration. A little serious ruination provides such great motivation and opportunities.

I am seeing in the press and from

the people around me that many Americans really do not want to be fooled again. Most seem to understand that the current cheap price of gasoline is meaningless. As soon as people are able to get back to work, however long that might take, energy prices will rise again. People seem to be getting it, finally. We have to do things differently and the only way to accomplish that is to start thinking much more long term. Our energy problems will not be solved in my lifetime, but if we don't start now, they will never be solved without the advent of calamity.

The stimulus package will provide unprecedented opportunities for the wind and solar industries. Between a three-year extension of the production tax credit for wind energy projects, the ability to convert those credits into cash, and other incentives, it is theoretically possible that taxpayers would cover 30% of the cost of a new wind farm. Of course, it is important to keep in mind that some of those taxpayers not yet have been born. However, incredibly tight financial markets will keep many projects that are completely ready to develop from proceeding in the immediate future. When financing is available there will be plenty of places to spend. As of last October the number of applications for solar power projects had grown, in less than two years, from zero to 125 with the total potential to produce 70,000 megawatts, which is equal to 70 large coal-fired power plants. Meanwhile, Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico along with his cousin Senator Mark Udall of Colorado and Senator Amy J. Klobuchar of Minnesota, recently introduced a bill that would require utilities to provide 6 percent of their electricity from renewable resources by 2012 and gradually increase that level to 25 percent by 2025. And there are billionaires from sea to shining sea eager to invest in waving, alabaster fields of wind turbines planted amidst the amber waves of grain.

But there are problems -- and lots of them. All of these projects are centralized systems that are going to necessarily be located far from energy consumers. Solar arrays will be placed in cloud free, sunny locations stretching from Southern California to Florida, using the cheapest land in the remotest desert. The most

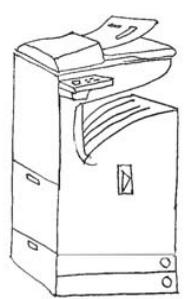
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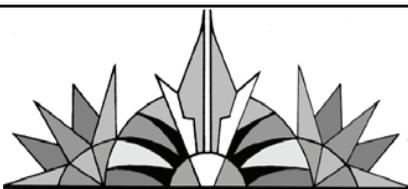
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Point Arena Food Co-op Is Official

The food co-op in Point Arena that has been in the planning stages for some time now has finally become a legal entity. Coastal Organics Cooperative, Inc. is the name of the organization as it is registered with the State and will soon be operating the Arena Market and Café as the name of the storefront. Work has already begun to renovate the street-level portion of the Oddfellows Hall to accommodate the new co-op.

While hired professionals must necessarily do some work, there is much that volunteers can do to make the transition. There are volunteer opportunities for painting, general construction and more. Some materials have been donated, but there is still a need for plumbing materials, framing lumber, and finish lumber. The goal is to open phase one in April.

The first thing that anyone interested in seeing this project happen should do is to join the co-op. Membership investments are \$300. A membership includes the whole family, but multiple memberships within a family are welcomed. Multiple benefits would accrue to that family. Additionally, it is possible to become a member by paying \$50 annually until the full investment is reached. Shares are not transferable, but they are refundable. A start-up fee will be waived at this time for founding members. Applications are available from the storefront at 185 Main

St. or by calling 882-3663.

By owning a piece of the co-op members will receive a 5% discount on all purchases, greater discounts on member shopping days, discounts on case orders, the ability to make special orders and influence the product line, vote for board members, and receive dividends and patronage refunds from yearly surpluses.

Depending on how much you shop at the cooperative, you could easily realize a better return on your share purchase than most investments. In addition you will also be one of the owners of the cooperative. This creates the opportunity to build and shape the market in exciting ways that benefit members and the community. Finally, as an owner, you can participate in the democratic running of the business; electing board members, participating in the board, serving on committees, and setting general policies.

If interested in making a greater investment in this community project, please contact the co-op for investment possibilities. Investing in a co-op where you live is different than putting your money in corporate stocks and bonds far away. The risks are different, the process is different, and the benefits to you and the community are different. If you are interested in making this vital community owned institution happen, please contact Peter at 707-882-3663 or info@arenaorganics.org

3rd Thursday Poets Present Gary Bolstridge

On Thursday, March 19th at 7:30pm, The Third Thursday Poetry Reading Series at the old CITYART building in Point Arena will feature San Francisco poet Gary Bolstridge. Bolstridge, a humorous, quirky, philosophical poet, is a retired mechanical engineer who freelances as a writer. He has over 30 chapbooks of poetry and his poetry has been published in magazines, literary reviews, online anthologies, and journals. He has been a featured poet at cafes, galleries and libraries throughout the Bay Area. He has recently published his first book of poetry with Beatitude Press, *Line By Line*, which includes the visual images of Anne Herbst. Besides poetry, he publishes articles and essays about bonsai, viewing stones and Japanese lanterns, and he also gives public lectures on these subjects.

His poetry spans such topics as nature, the human condition, life experience, surrealism, philosophy, history, politics and physics, among other things. No topic is taboo. He says, he likes "to infuse most poems with humor, satire and/or irony,

blending the improbable with reality, often ending with a revelatory comment meant to show the reader that both have a viable presence and meaning."

On his fifth grade report card, his teacher wrote "a good student but has his head in the clouds." Gary says this is still true, and that he is very much "in touch" with his "innerchild".

Oddly, with his head in the clouds he remains firmly grounded in imagination and creativity—balancing cold, hard facts with imagination in what he calls a "yin/yang approach" "I have never lost that childish eye and have fun seeing things as they aren't and making up improbable stories to entertain myself. I enjoy reading to an audience, having them interact with me. It brings poetry to life and makes life fun," he says.

This event is supported by Ling-Yen Jones & The Third Thursday Poetry Group, an anonymous donor, and Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from the James Irvine Foundation.



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Recycling Tip

We received an email recently from serious conservationist and recycler, Lucienne Allen. She and her husband, David, live on the ridge and use a Brita filter to purify their drinking water. This is fine except that she states, "If you're like me, you feel pretty bad every few months throwing the used filters in the landfill."

Well, feeling bad wasn't good enough for Lucienne. She has found a company that recycles those used pitcher filters and uses them to make other products. It is a company called Preserve and Lucienne sends along their web address where information on their recycling program is available. Go to <http://www.preserveproducts.com/recycling/britafilters.html> to learn how.

Thanks, Lucienne, there aren't many like you—but there should be.



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MY WAY FORWARD continued from page 11

efficient place for industrial scale wind energy production is a wide band east of the Rocky Mountains running from Texas north to Canada. The entire power distribution system of the North American continent must be redesigned and largely rebuilt to handle this new energy source. Coal and nuclear energy can provide electricity at will, 24/7, every day of the year. You just have to throw that billion dollar switch. Wind and solar, especially wind, can be intermittent and unpredictable at any given location, so complex systems must be designed and constructed to move the energy around.

Incredible amounts of new transmission lines will be required and they will march through farmland, fragile deserts, neighborhoods, and small communities where people are certain to rebel at the idea. There will be more than a few environmentalists, hunters, and other sundry types of nature lovers who will be happy to speak for the desert tortoise and the pronghorn antelope.

When considering national goals, I have to support wind and solar energy. Industrial scale development of solar energy, of course, has its own set of problems associated with it. I simply must feel better about wind and solar than fossil fuels and nuclear, but I have to continue to recognize that the only real solution is population control, a subject that most public figures are still terrified to seriously discuss.

Next month my column will be about a different concern. Large-scale development of wind energy can itself affect global climate and local weather. Maybe I should say that again. Large-scale wind energy development can affect global climate. But that's crazy you say. Wind turbines farms, even the largest ones, aren't so big. Are they? Major research is being done in this area and peer-reviewed papers published. The conclusions vary from interesting to astounding.

SCUTTLEBUTT continued from page 4

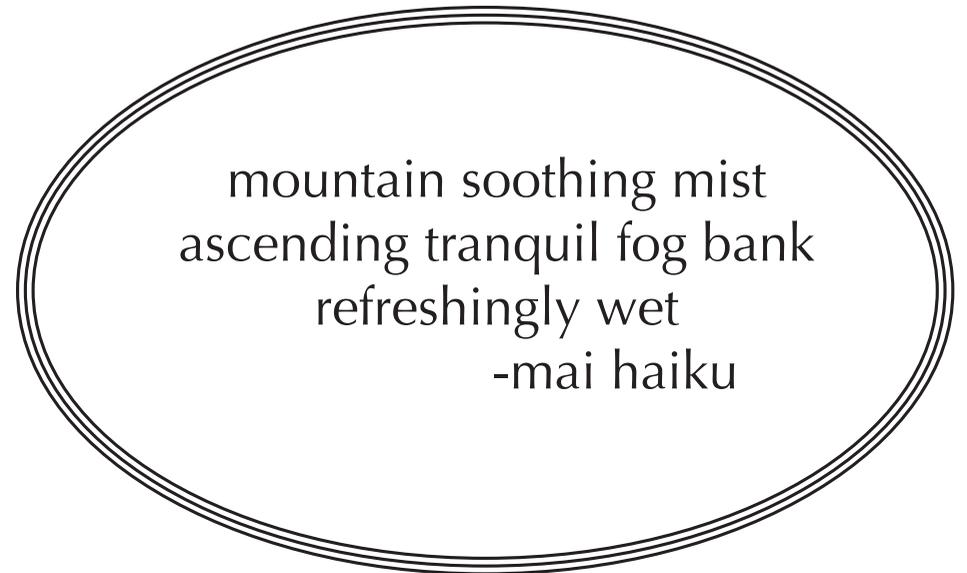
we had just let it sit there she would have lost about \$1000. This does not take into account inflation, which at an average of 3% per year means would mean that neither the market nor the bank would have protected the \$11,000.

Several points come to mind. One is that Amy should have gone to college in 1999 (but she was only 13 years old). Another thought is that maybe this is why the savings rate in America is so low. *You lose money by "saving" it.* Also, unless you get lucky, the only way to make money in the stock market is to work it. Just holding it there is unlikely to increase your wealth. Finally, at least in the last thirty years, money seems to go into the market when Democrats are in and it comes out of the market when Republicans are in.

A few years ago there was another idea floated to pay college costs. I can't remember if it was Barbara Boxer or Pat Wiggins who proposed this idea in California (I don't think they thought it up), but its too bad it didn't happen. It goes something like this: parents start paying tuition for a California public college starting anytime after a child is born. They pay at the rate that applies when payments are made. When the child reaches college age they may have already paid for their education or, if they choose not to go to a public college, they can just have the money back to use at a private school or trade school or to buy a new surfboard and take a trip to Bali.

Many students get loans to go to college and spend years paying them back at prevailing interest rates. Madeline went to college in the late '80's and paid 9% interest on her student loan. So often we start our graduates out in their professional lives with a bunch of debt. In many cases this limits their options because of the need to pay off the students loans that are hanging over their heads, but in all cases it increases the cost of college.

This other way of financing school gives parents and students up to 18 years to pay for the schooling with no interest payment, thus making college more affordable while increasing the national savings rate.



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PRINTMAKERS continued from pg. 5

Another aspect of "Thinking Big: Berkeley City College Printmakers" is that images are produced on a variety of output media - and always at a large scale. Group members produce digital imagery as quilts, on aluminum sheets, as big canvases on stretcher bars, on Mylar panels, in "Cornell Boxes" and other "sculptural" environments, and even on paper. In fact paper choices range from traditional matte printing on treated watercolor and rice papers to glossy photographic finishes to use of recycled and treated papers. Several artists use their printmaking imagery in creating other work including motion graphics, web art projects, and other projected artwork.

A final component of this exhibition is the degree of reflection about art history and pertinent precedents both historic and contemporary: collagists, surrealists, conceptualists, abstractionists, traditional photography, and of course digital multimedia arts.

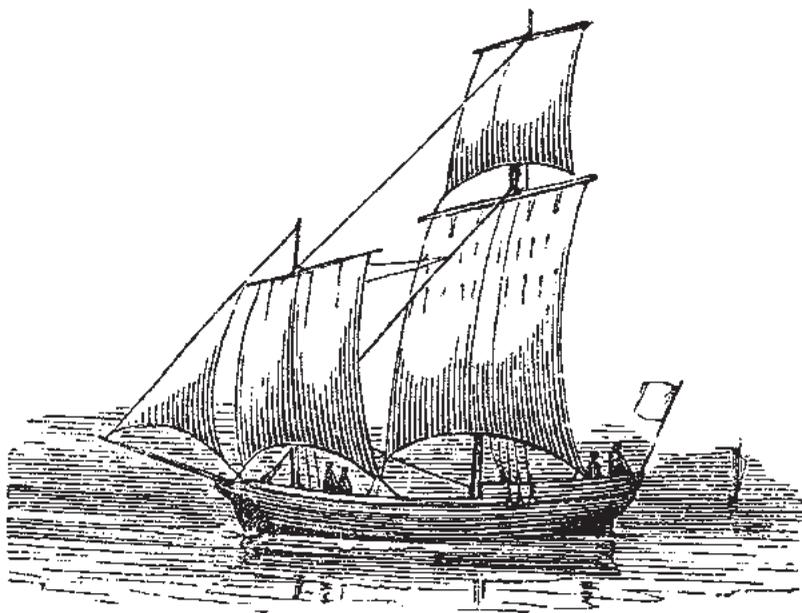
Curator for this exhibit is Matthew Silverberg. Members of this group have shown



Box of Go by Matthew Silverberg

recently (in 2008) at Sea Ranch, the San Pablo Civic Center Gallery, the Alameda Art Museum, the June Steingart Gallery (Laney College, Oakland), Kala and the SFMOMA Artists Gallery. Various group members have also shown (since 2006) at the Fetterley Gallery (Vallejo), Eddie Rhodes Gallery (Contra Costa College), the Addison Street Windows Gallery (Berkeley) and the Alameda Museum. Many group members produce art in other media as well including traditional photography, oil painting, web art, fabric art and motion graphics.

For more information on the Berkeley City College printmakers go to www.digitalartsclub.com.



MAYOR SINNOTT continued from cover

turned off the bus, though they lived in it another year.

Lauren now owns a home on Main Street in Point Arena, which has become something of a roadside attraction in town. Lauren has constructed and painted four large plywood angels that adorn her house. The first three are drawn from her extensive knowledge of art history. They represent Vision, Strength, and Compassion and are inspired by Victorian, Minoan, and Flapper style concepts.

No one should have any difficulty finding her house as it is marked by the presents of a very fancifully painted art car. Some ten years ago Lauren was traveling thru the Canadian tundra and saw numerous brightly painted trucks with advertisements. She thought that if they can do, it so can I. The car is entirely covered with landscapes and symbolic depictions.

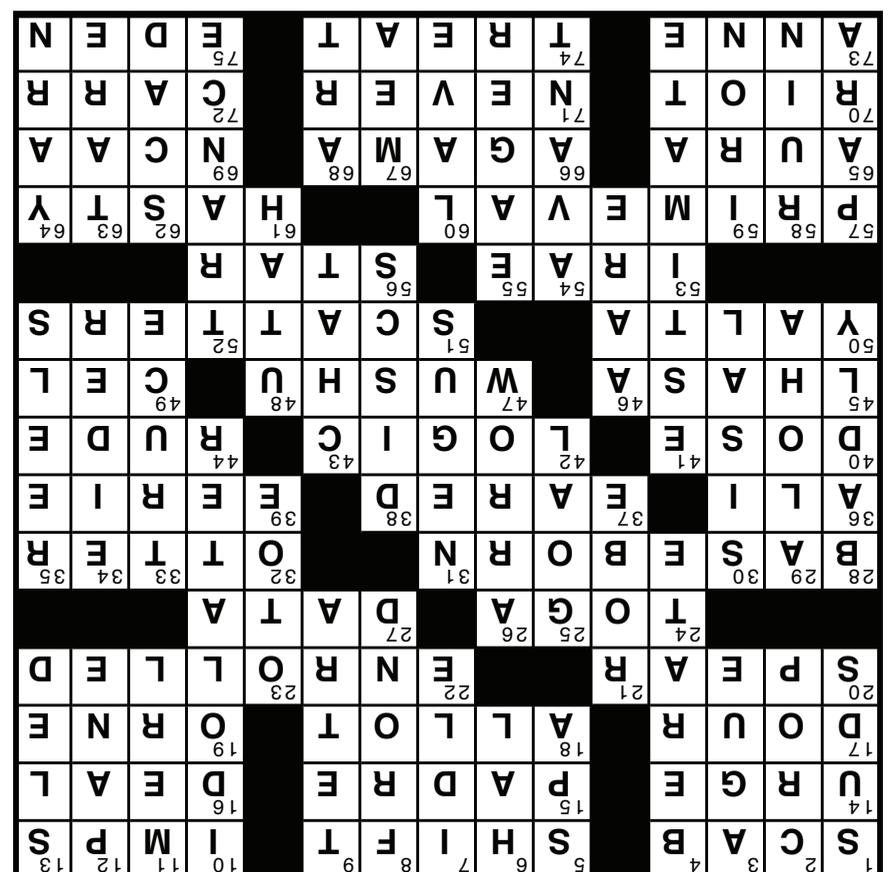
Ms. Sinnott became interested in politics out of her constant drive to know how things work. As politics influences and affects so much of our lives, she naturally felt the desire to find out how that works. She specifically got involved in Point Arena politics while renting a house from former mayor, Leslie Dahlhoff. It was Leslie who convinced Lauren to run for a council seat.

During the eight years she has already served Lauren has been focusing her effort on planning issues, learning how government operates, and trying to figure out how to bring people together.

Of the two greatest challenges that she sees facing the city the biggest is, of course, money. Cities such as Point Arena are heavily dependent on state and federal grants to finance city operations and the current state of the economy has few people feeling optimistic the near-term. The other issue for Point Arena and other tiny jurisdictions is the disconnect with Sacramento. State politicians think of cities as places where tens of thousands of people live and they tailor legislation accordingly. One such example is the requirement that any council member living within 500 ft. of a project must recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the issue. In Point Arena that means that almost every project has at least one council member out of the discussion. Another is the law prohibiting city employees from being on the city council. With such a small pool of interested and eligible citizens in Point Arena it is often difficult to field candidates for the council.

When asked what major projects may be in store for her first year leading the city, Lauren mentions an \$85,000 Transportation Planning Grant thru the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) that will enable the community of our entire area to address issues of circulation, parking, loading, and the sidewalks and roads of our whole town at the same time.

Ms. Sinnott states that she is "really thrilled" and "extremely honored" by her appointment and hopes to due justice to the trust which has been placed in her. Also, if anyone knows the whereabouts of her "Goddess" vanity plate from her art car, stolen a few months ago, please let her know.



MY TURN continued from pg. 6

Supported Agriculture) model. This arrangement between farmer and consumer seeks to establish a financially supportive situation for the farm by having investment shares to cover start-up costs, which is returned in the form of produce over the length of the season. Shareholders are connected to their food source and receive vibrant healthy food. Borrowing from the original version of this concept from Japan, the translation of teikei means “face to face”, emphasizing the interconnected nature of the relationship. This model relies on the agreement of trust and mutual support to the benefit of the local community by ensuring safe, secure food, preserving farmland, and creating important jobs.

Spending your dollars locally puts integrity into the community—securing jobs, growing businesses & farms, and making regionally distinct products. Coast locals have the opportunity to support a new cooperative food market in Point Arena, Arena Organics. Member-owned and directed, the coop will strive to support local agriculture, creating a vital guild that will strengthen the fabric of the economy. A recently published Mendocino County Local Food Guide offers information on access and seasonal availability of foods produced within the county. Other ways of accessing healthy local food are: attending the Gualala Farmer’s Market (Saturdays from May through October), joining a community garden (one in Pt Arena and the Posh Squash in Sea Ranch), and getting yourself into the garden to “reap what you sow.” The benefits of growing your own food are immeasurable. If all of us here on the coast sink in some roots and support the food system that sustains us, we are more likely to have a thriving local economy and strengthened community.

Patrick Cordrey has managed Oz Farm for 8 years. The farm will be offering CSA shares for a 30 week season beginning in April. Please call 882-3046 to join or with any questions.

ADVENTUROUS GARDENER continued from pg 9

drought limits your planting, remember that islands of vegetation, with shrubs and perennials grouped together, helps limit watering and looks beautiful.

With both ornamentals and edibles, it helps to know which are true annuals and which are actually perennials. The tomato is perennial in its tropical homeland and is capable of putting down very deep roots. If you can prepare a root bed four feet deep, your tomatoes will sent their roots down there. Mature plants can then be watered infrequently, but deeply.

This leads us to double digging, once again. If you aren’t up for that much digging, try to find someone to do it for you. A deep bed that keeps the topsoil on top will help your edible plants withstand drier conditions.

What changes and challenges can we expect for our gardens? As we learned last summer, our region can experience wildfires. Even if the coast escapes the flames, fires inland will send more wild animals our way. After fires, expect more hungry deer and mountain lions to prey on them. Other animals, from bears to porcupines could travel west looking for food.

Dry times may be trying times for wildlife and many plants, but not for weeds. Invasive plants are adapted for changing conditions, altering their survival strategies to take advantage of heavy rains, drought, heat or cold. That’s how they got to be weeds! Prolonged dry conditions may bring newer, tougher weeds our way.

A recent study showed that castor bean (big and toxic) and weedy fountain grass may be capable of thriving here if it gets just a bit warmer and drier. The one to fear is yellow star thistle, which has not yet taken hold on the coast. Seeds travel here on car tires, and it would be dreadful if the new climate regime allowed it to become established here. Bees may like it, but it’s one nasty weed to deal with.

Whatever happens, this is a time of adventure for plant lovers. We can make wonderful discoveries about plants and growing techniques that will keep us gardening happily. Embrace the changes, remembering that all true adventures include fear and frustration as well as delights.



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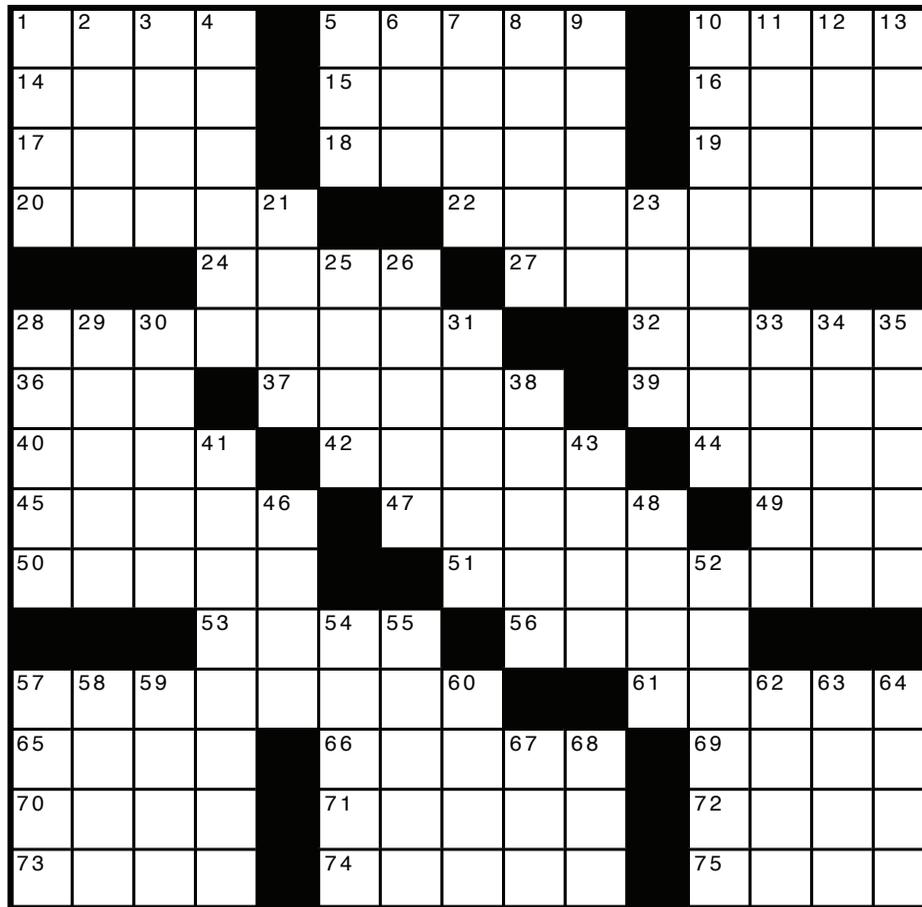
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<ACROSS>

- 1- Strike breaker
- 5- Transfer
- 10- Little devils
- 14- Exhort
- 15- Military chaplain
- 16- What's the big _____?
- 17- Sullen
- 18- Dole out
- 19- Writer Sarah ____ Jewett
- 20- Chucked weapon
- 22- Registered
- 24- Garment of ancient Rome
- 27- Group of individual facts
- 28- Illegitimate
- 32- Furry swimmer
- 36- The Greatest
- 37- Having auricular protuberances
- 39- So spooky as to be frightening
- 40- Prescribed amount
- 42- Reasoning
- 44- Uncouth



- 45- Potala Palace site
- 47- Chinese martial arts
- 49- Animation unit
- 50- Seaport in the Crimea
- 51- Disperses
- 53- Dies _____
- 56- Lead
- 57- Primordial
- 61- Hurried
- 65- Atmosphere
- 66- Brightly colored lizard
- 69- Final Four org.
- 70- Civil disturbance
- 71- Not once
- 72- Singer Vikki
- 73- Actress Heche
- 74- Rare delight
- 75- Paradise lost

- 13- Dog-powered snow vehicle
- 21- Cloak
- 23- Siouan speaker
- 25- Score
- 26- Shaft shot from a bow
- 28- In an inadequate manner
- 29- Hawaiian greeting
- 30- Agave fiber
- 31- Old Ethiopian emperor
- 33- Armistice
- 34- Duck with soft down
- 35- Staggers
- 38- Flat circular plates
- 41- Guess
- 43- Converse
- 46- River in central Switzerland
- 48- Four Corners state
- 52- Daze

<DOWN>

- 1- Lather
- 2- Harvest
- 3- Malaria symptom
- 4- Rebuke
- 5- Hot tub
- 6- Actor Linden
- 7- Not working
- 8- Large divided leaf
- 9- Aquarium fish
- 10- Worshiper of Baal, Hathor, or Jupiter
- 11- Blackbird
- 12- Window piece

- 54- ____-garde
- 55- ____ beaver
- 57- Graph prefix
- 58- Undoing
- 59- Tiger's choice
- 60- Wash
- 62- Great quantity
- 63- Shipping deduction
- 64- Aggregate of fibers
- 67- Give ____ break!
- 68- Singer Garfunkel

crossword courtesy of Best Crosswords

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